



The Spectacle

From the Office Down the Hall

We have reached the end of the government's fiscal year, which, among other things, means it is a time for us to make an accounting for what we have done these past twelve months. This means counting money spent, programs offered, and numbers of first aid cases, etc.—but it also means recognizing success. There is a long tradition at Arlington House for acknowledging superior performance. Mind you, most of the prizes were given out nearly 200 years ago by George Washington Parke Custis for sheep's wool! None-the-less, I want to continue his example by recognizing all the hard work, inspirational ideas and solid commitment that has been demonstrated at Arlington House by the volunteers and staff over the last year.

We simply could not protect Arlington House and give visitors a quality experience if it were not for our intrepid volunteers corps. And in fact, this past year there has been an increase in the number of hours that you have given us! This deserves not only a round of applause and a hearty pat on the back, but also our thanks via the opportunity to take a day away from Arlington House to have fun and learn more about Robert E. Lee and the 19th century. This year this opportunity took the form of a trip to Lexington and the Washington and Lee University. And fortunately, although 14 people made the trip which involved a personal tour of the President's House where Lee lived followed by a boisterous and tasty lunch, I didn't get any calls (before the bus left, I told volunteer coordinator Delphine Gross that I wasn't good for bail!) I want to thank all of our volunteers for your effort this past year.



Arlington House as seen from Weeks Drive

The ranger staff also saw some exemplary performance this year. The following is a list of Arlington House staff that received awards over the past month or so. These awards primarily represent a special recognition for extraordinary efforts directed to specific projects or events; but some awards simply acknowledge plain old, high quality performance. Everyone at Arlington House, both paid and volunteer staff, has done a wonderful job this year. This list can only be a partial list because I can't tell you how proud I am of the teamwork, professionalism and hard work I see demonstrated at Arlington House every day by all of you. Congratulations on a job well done!

🏆 **Malcolm Willoughby**
Cash award for his service as acting site

manager when Zane was born. Malcolm did both his job and mine for three weeks including setting up a very important National Park Foundation event.

🏆 **Team Award** (National Park Service backpack) for: Mark Jones, Louis Butler, Karen Kinzey, Dotti Carns, Kara Walker, Betty Soltani, Becca Withers, Mary Ratiff and Delphine Gross

For their continuous help doing curatorial housekeeping in the wee hours of the morning. The House would not look as good as it does without them.

🏆 **Mark Jones and Jason Moore**
Cash award for taking the initiative and a saw

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From the Office Down the Hall (continued)

and building the hoop storage in the OAB attic.

🏆 Karen Kinzey

Time off award for her superior outreach performance. Karen has given numerous speeches to a wide variety of groups both locally and in other cities and states. She was so compelling that many of her talks resulted in donations to the site!

🏆 Mary Troy

Cash award for somehow managing to be in two places at once. Mary has cheerfully maintained high standards as the Arlington House curator while at the same time continuing to serve as the only curatorial staff for Clara Barton NHS.

🏆 Mary Ratiff

Time off award for her willingness to help the Interpretation branch and her demonstration of professional teamwork. On numerous occasions Mary has served well outside her job description by filling in as a front-line interpreter when staff levels were low.

🏆 Kara Walker and Becca Withers

Time off Award for taking the initiative to research and present a special interpretive program on the role of religion at Arlington House.

🏆 David Wilson

Cash award for anticipating maintenance problems, taking the initiative to solve them, and doing the work safely.

🏆 Becca Withers

Cash award for truly outstanding work developing interpretive wayside panels for the Summer Kitchen exhibit.

Next year, perhaps we will bring back sheep sheering...

Kendell Thompson

Site Manager

Arlington House,

The Robert E. Lee Memorial

Open House News

The annual Evening Open House is set for Friday, October 8th, 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm. The theme of this year's open house is Robert E. Lee and John Brown at Harpers Ferry. Supervisory Park Ranger Frank Cucurullo will present a special program about Robert E. Lee's role in the capture of John Brown at Harpers Ferry. The Gilmore Light Ensemble will provide period music in the White Parlor.

Invite your family and friends. Reservations are required. Please call (703) 235-1530 to arrange for free tickets. Tours are at 7:30 pm, 8:00 pm, 8:30 pm, and 9:00 pm. The special program begins at 8:00 pm.

Volunteers should try to arrive by 6:30 pm
All volunteers and staff must be dressed and

in place by 7:00 pm. Please allow extra time to dress, as needed. We will be dressing in the OAB (Old Administration Building) dressing rooms, conference room and attic.

As always, the Arlington House staff thanks all volunteers who have agreed to volunteer for this special event for their time and dedication. This event would not be possible without your generous assistance.

If you would like to volunteer for the Open House and you have not notified Delphine please call so we can add you to the schedule.

If you must cancel please notify Arlington House immediately at (703) 235-1530.

Volunteers Rescue Arlington House Woodlands

Invasive exotic plant removal event is scheduled for Saturday, October 16th (8:30 am - 11:30 am). Volunteers are needed to help remove exotic vegetation such as English ivy from the only uncut vestige of forest George Washington Parke Custis set aside in 1802. This woodland is now threatened by incursion of invasive, exotic plants that are changing the ecosystem and literally pulling down mature trees in excess of 200 years old.

Sturdy footwear, long sleeve shirts and long pants recommended. Bottled water and tools will be provided.

Sewers Needed

Needed: volunteers who can sew! Both machine and hand sewing.

We have purchased white curtain panels to replace the existing ones in Arlington House.

The panels need a casing at the top for the curtain rod and to be hemmed. They also need to be labelled as to in which window they hang.

If you are interested in helping measure windows, measure and cut new curtains, iron, pin, hem and help put the curtains back up, please call Mary Troy, ARHO Museum Curator, at 703-235-1535.

Please note - this will be a winter project, dates to be determined.

Area Special Events

October 1-3

"Conference on Civil War Medicine" in Richmond, VA. Includes lectures, reception and bus tour of Richmond Civil War hospital sites. See www.civilwarmed.org for details.

North-South Skirmish Association's National Competition at Fort Shenandoah near Winchester, VA. Live-fire competition featuring all varieties of vintage weapons. Free. More info: www.n-ssa.org or 248-447-5909.

October 2

Washington DC- Walking tour with living history: Meet spies soldiers, actors and other "citizens" of Washington and decode a spy message during "Courage! The Civil War in Washington" walking tour. Begins 11 am at Cosi Coffee, 10th and E streets NW. Mention you saw it here for ticket discounts. \$12 adult, \$6 under 12 (after discount). 301-588-9255 or mail@historicstrolls.com.

Brandy Station Foundation Fall Festival at Salubria Mansion near Culpeper, VA. Living

history, house tours, music and much more. Benefits the battlefield. 301-580-8901 or www.brandystation.org.

Living history, "An Evening with Walt Whitman," 19th-century poet, nurse and observer of the Civil War at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria, VA. 7-9 pm. \$25. Reservations required. 703-838-4848 or www.fortward.org.

Memorial Service, annual observation honoring the soldiers who fought and died at Saltville, VA in 1864 including black Union troops. Free. www.saltville.com or 276-496-5342 extension 6.

October 2-3

Living history, Union encampment and demonstrations at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, noon-4 pm Sunday. 866-258-4729 or www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

Living history encampment and reenactment at Laurel Hill, birthplace of JEB Stuart near Ararat, VA. Demonstrations, period music, speakers, sutlers, book signings and battles at 1:30 pm each day plus candlelight tour and Saturday night skirmish. Camps open 10 am. Details: www.jebstuart.org.

October 3

Living history, "Ship's Company," demonstrations and displays highlight the lives of Civil War-era sailors at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria, VA. Noon-4 pm. Free. 703-838-4848 or www.fortward.org.

October 8-9

Symposium, McCormick Civil War Institute, featured speaker is Gary Gallagher. Based in Winchester, VA. Fee charged. Details: 540-535-3543 or www.theknowledgepoint.org.

October 8-10

Seminar and Tour, "Antietam Revealed: Walking in Their Footsteps," with Dr. James McPherson and Dennis Frye. Detailed walks of the Antietam, MD battlefield and other

sites related to the battle plus panel discussion. Based in Chambersburg, Penn. Details: email chaden@chambersburg.org or 717-264-7101

October 9

Canoe tour, "Paddle Through the Past," on the Staunton River at the Staunton River Battlefield State Park near Clover, VA. Details: 434-454-4312.

Special tours and programs, "John Brown: Beyond the Gallows," includes special evening tour at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, WV. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/hafe or 304-535-6298.

Battlefield hike, First Manassas. Five-mile, four-hour tour begins at 1 pm at the Henry Hill visitor center, Manassas National Battlefield Park, VA. Park fee applies. 703-361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.

October 9-10

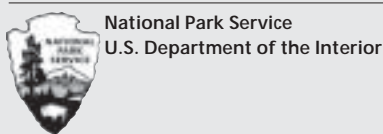
Living history, "US Sanitary Commission," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD. 11 am-3 pm. Free with admission. www.civilwarmed.org or 301-695-1864.

Living history encampment and demonstrations by New York soldiers at the Pennsylvania Memorial and the US Sanitary Commission at Pitzer Woods in the Gettysburg National Military Park, PA. 717-334-1124 extension 422 or www.nps.gov/gett

Living history at Drewry's Bluff, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, VA. Confederate navy demonstrations and special tours. 10 am-5 pm Saturday; 10 am-4 pm Sunday Free. 804-226-1981 or www.nps.gov/rich.

October 10

Guided tour of the site of a Confederate Civil War camp and a freedman's farm on President James Madison's estate,



Arlington House was the home of Robert E. Lee and his family for thirty years and is uniquely associated with the Washington and Custis families. It is now preserved as a memorial to General Lee, who gained the respect of Americans in both the North and the South.

Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

Phone
703-235-1530

Web Site
<http://www.nps.gov/arho>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Area Special Events (continued)

Montpelier, near Orange. Estate was used during the winter of 1863-64 by South Carolina troops. 2 pm. Free with admission (\$11 adults). www.montpelier.org or 540-672-2728.

October 15-17

Reenactment, 140th anniversary reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek on the original battlefield south of Middletown, VA. Always a big event. Details: 888-628-1864 or www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org. Click for schedule..

October 16

Living history, 19th Century Festival and Point of Honor in Lynchburg, VA. 10 am-4 pm. Details: 434-847-1459.

October 16-17

Living history encampment and demonstrations by all units from the Ohio Civil War Association at the Pennsylvania Memorial in the Gettysburg National Military Park, PA. 717-334-1124 extension 422 or www.nps.gov/gett.

October 21

Symposium, "Why They Fought," a variety of presenters talk about the motivations of all sides at the Tredegar Gun Foundry, 500 Tredegar St., Richmond, VA 7:30-9 pm. Free, but reservations are required. Call 804-788-6490 no later than Oct. 15.

Lecture, "Black Sailors in Navy Blue: African American Sailors of the Civil War," at the USS Constellation in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, MD. 7 pm. \$12 at door, \$10 advance. 410-539-1797 or www.constellation.org.

October 22

Special program, "Ghost Stories Around the Campfire," at Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News, VA. 7 pm. \$8 adults. 757-888-3371 or www.leehall.org.

October 22-23

Living history, "Civil War Ghost Walk," spooky tours 7-10 pm at Endview Plantation in Newport News, VA. Last tour begins 9:30 pm. \$7. 757-887-1862 or www.endview.org.

October 23

Bus tour, "Civil War Cemeteries." Visit unmarked and little-known Civil War-era cemeteries in Loudoun County. Leaves from Claude Moore Park in Sterling, VA. 9 am-5 pm. \$45. Lunch \$5 additional or bring your own. Reservations, information: 703-444-1275.

Haunted History Hike on the Sailor's Creek battlefield involves activities for old and young and the Hillsman House on the Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park, VA. Details: www.dcr.state.va.us or 434-392-3435.

Special program, "The Haunting of Liberia Plantation," part of the Manassas Museum System, VA. Fee charged for the ghostly tours. \$15. Details: 703-368-1873 or www.manassasmuseum.org.

Haunted Harvest Hayride, Civil War living history included at the Staunton River Battlefield State Park near Clover, VA. Details: 434-454-4312 or www.dcr.state.va.us.

Battlefield hike, Second Manassas. Five-mile, four-hour tour begins at 1 pm at the Henry Hill visitor center, Manassas National Battlefield Park, VA. Park fee applies. 703-361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.

October 23-24

Annual US Sharpshooter living history encampment and demonstrations at Pitzer Woods with programs at Little Round Top in the Gettysburg National Military Park, PA. 717-334-1124 extension 422 or www.nps.gov/gett.

October 24

Lecture, "The Character of Robert E. Lee," at the Graffiti House visitor center in Brandy Station, just off US 29 north of Culpeper, VA. 2 pm. \$5 donation. 540-727-7718.

October 29

Walking tour, "The Spirited Past of Manassas: Themed Tours of Historic Old Town," sponsored by the Manassas Museum, VA. 5-9 pm. \$10. Details: 703-368-1873.

Lecture and dinner, "Old Tactics, New Adaptations: The Confederate Attack of the USS Waterwitch," at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. Reservations required. Details: 866-258-4729 or www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

October 30-31

Living history displays and demonstrations at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, noon-4 pm Sunday. 866-258-4729 or www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

Living history, "The Battlefield Embalmer," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD. 11 am-3 pm. Free with admission. 301-695-1864 or www.civilwarmed.org.

Living history encampment and demonstrations by Pennsylvania artillery at the Pennsylvania Memorial in the Gettysburg National Military Park, PA. 717-334-1124 extension 422 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Living history and displays highlighting both Civil War navies at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. Free with admission. Details: 866-258-4729 or www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

Living history, "Getting the Message Through," simultaneous signal corps demonstrations at Washington Monument State Park (South Mountain) and the Antietam National Battlefield, MD. 1 pm. Park fees apply. 301-432-8065 or www.nps.gov/anti (Antietam).



Significant Historic Events in October

October, 1834

Lee, who was “heartily sick” of the petty bickering at Old Point Comfort, was asked by General Gratiot, Chief of Engineers, to become his assistant in Washington.

Although Lee was anxious to get away from Hampton Roads and to have his family near Arlington, he said he had no interest in office work. Nevertheless, Gratiot encouraged him to try the position and Lee agreed.

October, 1848

GWP Custis was at work painting his “Battle of Monmouth.” In a letter to John Spears Smith of the Maryland Historical Society he boasted of having “Two religions... the Religion of Christianity and the Religion of the Revolution!”

October, 1849

Sculptor Clark Mills worked at Arlington making plaster cast of the Houdon bas-relief of Washington owned by Mr. Custis. (Mills sculpted the equestrian statues of Washington in Washington Circle and Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Park.)

Mrs. Lee and the children rejoined Colonel Lee in Baltimore after spending the summer at Arlington. The slaves who usually accompanied them were left at the home because “Lee thought it unwise to expose them to the influence of the abolitionists then active in the city.”

October, 1851

GWP Custis was attempting to improve Arlington. New steps were built around the portico, hexagonal bricks were being fired in Washington for its floor, and a new roof was to be placed on the stable. Arlington Mill on Four Mile Run was also being extensively repaired. Mrs. Custis wrote her grandson, Custis Lee, “You will hardly know the old place when you get back.”

October 1, 1808

Mary Anna Randolph Custis was born at “Annefield,” Clark County, Virginia, a Fitzhugh estate in the upper Shenandoah

Valley. “Annefield” was the home of a cousin, Anne Meade Page, with whom Mrs. Custis was visiting.

October 2, 1865

Robert E Lee took the oath of the office as president of Washington College, Lexington, Virginia. The unpretentious ceremony, which began at 9 AM, was kept simple out of deference to Lee’s wishes. He signed his name to the oath but said nothing during the entire proceedings

On October 6, he wrote to a friend that he had entered his duties “in the hope of being of some service; but I should prefer, as far as my predilections are concerned to be on a small farm, where I could make my daily bread.”

October 3, 1865

General Lee urged General P.G. T. Beauregard to write a history of his Civil War campaigns: Everyone should do all in his power to collect and disseminate the truth in the hope that it may find a place in history, and descend to posterity.”

October 5, 1861

Solders of the Second, Sixth, and Seventh Wisconsin, and the Nineteenth Indiana marched from Washington via the Georgetown Aqueduct to Fort Tillinghast (today, part of Fort Myer) on the Arlington Estate. Joined by the 24th Michigan regiment, the unit became known as the Iron Brigade (of the West) after the Antietam campaign. It was the only all-western brigade in the Army of the Potomac and became the most decorated unit in the United States Army. Its most notable commander, General John Gibbon, a North Carolinian by birth, is buried immediately to the east of the Arlington flower garden. The soldiers, who had joined hundreds of the others already occupying Arlington estate, went into winter quarters, and remained until March 10, 1862. “The soldiers felled trees and constructed their own camp from the ground up, including officers’

quarters, cookhouses, and stables. For themselves they erected small log cabins roofed with canvas, with mud chimneys and sheet-iron stoves.”

October 10, 1856

GWP Custis traveled to Philadelphia to attend the national exhibition held by the U.S. Agricultural Society. He was deeply touched by the applause that accompanied his introduction at the grand dinner, the climax of the event. He reminded the audience of more than two thousand “of the pride Washington had taken in being a farmer,” and he urged them to remember that “the liberty they now enjoyed had been won at such memorable places in their state as Independence Hall and Valley Forge.”

October 10, 1857

GWP Custis died at Arlington House. “For some time he had been failing steadily, and at last had been persuaded to go to bed—something he had hardly done in previous illnesses. When he realized that he would not rally from the congestion of the lungs that was dragging him down, he had gone over his will and various business matters with Mrs. Lee, then had slowly sunk into unconsciousness. About midnight, October 9, he had rallied enough to ask her to summon everyone to take leave of him while he knew them, and after talking a little to each one had asked to be remembered to his son-in-law, and to Custis Lee, who by this time was in California. Then he had asked from Mr. Dana, their minister with whom he took communion”—apparently for the first time.

“ ‘God have mercy on me in my last moments,’ they heard him murmur about sunrise. ‘Lay me beside my blessed wife,’ he whispered a little later. Feebly, he shook his head when the doctor tried to give him some brandy. ‘You know I never liked spirits,’ he said. About noon his harsh breathing had suddenly ceased, as quietly and peacefully he passed away.”

Significant Historic Events in October (continued)

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Dana from the White Parlor on Tuesday, October 13.

October 12, 1824

The Marquis de Lafayette arrived in the District of Columbia. He was greeted by an official party which included GWP Custis, and was escorted to the Capitol where Mr. Custis had the Washington tents erected under the Rotunda.

October 12, 1870

Robert E. Lee died at Lexington, Virginia. He had suffered a cerebral thrombosis on September 28 and had remained critically ill until his death. On October 11 he lapsed into “a half-delirium of dreams and memories... Sometimes his voice was distinct. “Tell Hill he *must* come up,’ he said so plainly and empathetically that all who sat in the death-chamber understood him.” His last words were, “Strike the tent!” Shortly after nine in the morning he passed away.

October 13, 1857

The funeral service for GWP Custis was held in the White Parlor. The immediate family and the slaves were present. According to a local newspaper account, almost a thousand people attended the gravesite ceremony—including a brass band the Washington Light Infantry and veterans of the War of 1812. Services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Dana.

That night Agnes Lee wrote, “Every one was very kind, many, crowds—of the so called ‘great; the obscure, soldiers, servants, all drew near to pay this last tribute to one who in life had been so kind. The morning was very bright but O it was a sad sad day.”

October 15, 1824

The Marquis de Lafayette spent the entire evening at Arlington House, although he returned to his hotel in Washington at night.

October 15, 1870

The funeral of Robert E. Lee was held with a special effort to avoid pageantry “or the display of any spirit contrary to that which

Lee had exhibited during the difficult days of the reconstruction.” All of Lee’s children were present, as well as two of his closest staff members, Colonel Walter H. Taylor and Colonel Charles S. Venable. General Pendleton read the service for the dead without a eulogy. Many former Confederate soldiers filed silently by his bier in the chapel and sang the old English hymn “How Firm a Foundation” at the end of the service.

October 15, 1873

[Eleanor] Agnes Lee, 32 died at Lexington, Virginia. She had been sick for some time and had been bedridden for more than a month. On the evening of the 14th she asked, “Doctor, must I prepare to live or die?” “To do both, Miss Agnes,” he replied. To Mildred Lee she said, “I never cared to live long. I am weary of life. How strange I should die between my Father and Annie. He died on the 12th and Annie on the 20th.”

October 15, 1891

William Henry Fitzhugh “Rooney” Lee, 54, died and was buried at Ravensworth, Annandale, Fairfax County, Virginia. At the time of his death Fitzhugh Lee was a United States congressman from the Eight District of Virginia.

October 16, 1824

The Marquis de Lafayette probably paid his respects to Ann Lee, the widow of General Henry Lee, at her home in Alexandria. If Lafayette did visit the widow of his old comrade in arms on this occasion, Robert E. Lee, 17, probably met him for the first time. [Freeman’s date is certainly incorrect, and his source may have confused Lafayette’s December visit with an October parade through the streets of Alexandria.]

October 16, 1837

Robert E. Lee, concerned that his eldest son, Custis, now five years old, was being spoiled by relatives and slaves, wrote to his wife, “Our dear little Boo seems to have among his friends a *reputation* of being hard to manage, a distinction not at all desirable...I pray God to watch over and direct our efforts in guarding our dear Son, that we may bring

him up ‘in the way he should go.’ “

October 17, 1859

Busy making repairs at Arlington, Robert E. Lee was summoned by Lieutenant J.E.B. Stuart to immediately report to the Secretary of War. Setting out at once in civilian clothes, Lee learned that some kind of insurrection was taking place at Harpers Ferry, Virginia—the John Brown raid on the Federal arsenal. Lee was asked to take command of all the military forces, including militiamen from Maryland and Virginia and marines from Washington Navy Yard. By 11 o’clock PM, Lee arrived at Harpers Ferry by train and had the militiamen and marines surround the fire-engine house at the arsenal, where the survivors of the raid had taken refuge with their thirteen hostages.

October 18, 1859

At 7 o’clock AM, when the light was sufficient for the Marine detachment to make the assault, Lee and two thousand bystanders watched as J.E.B. Stuart read Lee’s terms of surrender to the raiders inside the engine house. John Brown returned counter-proposals and the hostages added their appeals. (“One voice from within cried out in a very different tone, ‘Never mind us, fire!’ The speaker was Lewis W. Washington, grandnephew of the general. Lee, who knew him well, recognized his inflections and remarked quietly, ‘The old revolutionary blood does tell!’”). At Stuart’s signal the marines attacked the engine house. The assault was finished in three minutes. One marine and one raider were killed, and John Brown was wounded by the marine lieutenant’s dress sword. None of the hostages was injured, although Lewis Washington “refused to come out until a pair of gloves were brought, so that his neighbors might not see his soiled hands.” Lee placed Brown and other surviving members of his raiding party in the joint custody of the United States marshal and the sheriff of the county. He then investigated a totally false story about another raid five miles away, and traveled back to Washington, where he made his report at the War Department the following day.

Significant Historic Events in October (continued)

October 19, 1914

Robert E. Lee, Jr., 70, died at “Romancoke” (Romancock), the estate on the Pamunkey River he has inherited from his grandfather, GWP Custis. His *Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee* had been published in 1904.

October 20, 19862

Anne Carter (“Annie”) Lee, 23, died of typhoid fever at Warren White Sulphur Springs, North Carolina. “Lee had known of her illness and had been most apprehensive, but he was not prepared for her death when he received the announcement of it. After he got the letter, he pulled himself together and went over the official correspondence of the morning in Major Taylor’s company, without revealing his loss or showing his emotion... When Taylor unceremoniously re-entered the tent a few minute’s later, Lee was weeping.” To Mrs. Lee he wrote, “I cannot express the anguish I feel at the death of my sweet Annie. To know that I shall never see her again on earth, that her place in our circle, which I always hoped one day to enjoy, is forever vacant, is agonizing in the extreme. But God in this, as in all things, has mingled mercy with the blow, in selecting

that one best prepared to leaves us. May you be able to join me in saying, ‘His will be done.’”

Mrs. Lee has Annie buried in Warrenton, North Carolina but hoped that some day the body could be brought back to “her own dear home” at Arlington.

October 21, 1850

GWP Custis presented a block of Vermont marble on behalf of the Washington Light infantry to the mayor of Washington as a contribution to the Washington Monument.

October 21, 1857

Lee learned of the death of his father-in-law, GWP Custis. He wrote in his private memorandum book, “The shock was as unexpected as afflicting. Determined to go immediately to my wife to give her all the comfort and aid in my power.” Subsequently Lee obtained leave to return to Arlington to settle Mr. Custis’ estate.

October 26, 1925

The *New York Times* carried an article headlined “Lee Memorial Plans To Be

Dropped”: “Following a visit of Charles C. Moore, chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, paid to President Coolidge today, it became known that an entire change of base in regard to the project virtually had been determined upon. The mansion will be restore not in the decorative style it had as occupied by General Lee, but in the period style of the earlier years in which it was occupied by members of the Custis family.”

Moore, who had become the *de facto* director of the Arlington House restoration, “had apparently decided that restoration of the mansion to the period ca. 1804 would permit the elimination of all traces of the Victorian architectural features and furnishings, which he and his fellow architects strongly detested and regarded as an inferior style.” Of course, this change subverted the intent of the legislation passed by congress on March 4.

October 27, 1843

Robert E. Lee, Jr., the sixth Lee child, was born at Arlington. Writing to a friend, Lee joked that the boy had “a fine long nose like his father, but no whiskers.”



AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please contact Delphine Gross no later than the 20th of each month with availability dates and times to be posted the following month (Please call by October 20th with November information). Even if you are a regularly scheduled VIP please contact Delphine to confirm your availability. Again, the contact number is (703) 235-1530 ext. 227. Please leave the dates and times you are available on the voice mail. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Mary Randolph is often referred to as the first person identified by name to be buried on the grounds of what is today Arlington National Cemetery. Her grave is located along the Custis Walk, north of Arlington House. She was a cousin of George Washington Parke Custis, his wife, Mary Lee Fitzhugh Custis and Thomas Jefferson. She is also reported to be the Godmother of Mary Anna Randolph Custis (Mrs. Robert E. Lee).

Mary Randolph was born August 9, 1762 at Amphill, near Richmond, VA, the eldest of 13 children; she died January 23, 1828 in Washington City. She and her siblings were educated by tutors and she was trained in the household management techniques required of all upper class women who would oversee large manor houses and supervise large household staffs.

In 1780 Mary Randolph married a cousin, David Meade Randolph, a successful farmer and inventor. He was a captain in the Revolutionary War, and President George Washington later appointed him to be a United States Marshall. Invitations were sought after by guests who enjoyed the elegant table in their Richmond home. David Meade Randolph became an outspoken Federalist and was subsequently removed from his position by his cousin, President Thomas Jefferson in 1802. Losing this job and other economic downturns threatened their financial position, security, and their elegant lifestyle.

In an effort to improve her family's financial situation, Mary Randolph undertook an unusual step for an upper class woman of her day by advertising in the Richmond Virginia Gazette that she was opening a boarding house for ladies and gentlemen in March 1808. Mrs. Randolph's establishment proved so successful that she had as many guests as she could accommodate. In addition to providing rooms, she also served sumptuous meals.

Due to advancing age, the couple moved to Washington, D.C. in 1819 to live with a son, William Beverly Randolph. Mary began compiling her cookbook, *The Virginia Housewife*, which was published in 1824. Her book is considered the most influential 19th century cookbook published in America with clear instructions, exact weight and measures and rules for running a successful household. Mrs. Randolph died January 23, 1828 and was buried at Arlington, at her request. Her cookbook was republished in many editions throughout the 19th century and is still referred to today.

The following recipe is adapted for modern cooks and appeared in the Miami Herald with format by Lisa Crawford.

Mary Randolph's Sweet Potato Pie

¼ cup butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
2 cups cooked, mashed sweet potatoes
3 eggs
¼ cup brandy
2t. grated lemon rind
2T. lemon juice
1t. vanilla extract
dash ground nutmeg
finely chopped citron
1 unbaked 9" pastry shell

Cream butter in a mixing bowl; gradually add sugar, beating well. Add potatoes; beat at medium speed using electric mixer until well blended. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Place brandy in a small pan; heat until just warm. Add brandy, lemon rind, juice, vanilla and nutmeg to sweet potato mixture; stir until well blended. Pour mixture into pastry shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes, or until a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Sprinkle pie with citron; cool immediately.

Information for this article is from the Arlington Cemetery web site and Google.com.

October 2004

Arlington House VIP Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	2
3 Marnie Edwards 9:30-4:00 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	4 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	5 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	6 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30	7 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 C. Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	8 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30 Elene Paul 12:30-4:30	9 Rebecca Jones 9:30-4:30 Marnie Edwards 1:30-4:30
10 Robyn Vai (NW only) 11:00-3:00 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	11 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00 Jo Schoolfield 10:00-2:00	12 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30	13 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30	14 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 C. Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	15 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30 Elene Paul 12:30-4:30	16 Delia Rios 11:00-1:00 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30 Kirsten Wolfe 10:00-4:30
17 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30 Elene Paul 10:00-3:00	18 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00 Jo Schoolfield 10:00-2:00	19	20 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30	21 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 C. Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30	22 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	23 Delia Rios 11:00-1:00 Lisa Kittinger 11:00-4:30
24 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	25 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	26 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30	27 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30	28 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 C. Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	29 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30 Elene Paul 12:30-4:30	30 Delia Rios 11:00-1:00 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30
31 Marnie Edwards 9:30-1:30 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30						

If you are available to volunteer, but are not on the calendar please call Delphine so you can be added to the schedule.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

<<Name>>
<<Address>>
<<CityStateZip>>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The Spectacle is a monthly newsletter for the volunteers of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

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Comments? Write to:

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Volunteers Needed

The roster of active volunteers is in dire need of additional names! If you know anyone interested in joining our ranks please refer them to Delphine Gross, Volunteer Coordinator (703) 235-1530 ext 227.

